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A CROSS SECTIONAL STUDY ON MATERNAL KNOWLEDGE LEVEL RELATED TO HEALTH CARE OF THE NEONATES AT UKM MEDICAL CENTRE

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Background:

Every pregnant mother should be equipped with good knowledge on health care for her neonate. A study was conducted at UKM Medical Centre (UKMMC) to assess the prevalence of knowledge level on health care of neonate among third trimester pregnant mothers, identify factors influenced and source of information gained.

Material and Methods:

A cross-sectional study was done in November 2010 till Feb 2011 using simple random sampling among 355 pregnant mothers at UKMMC Antenatal Clinic.

Result:

A total of 52.7% respondents have good knowledge level on health care of their neonates. The knowledge level was significantly influenced by the pregnancy status ($p=0.001$), explanations given by the doctors/nurses ($p=0.003$), received information on health care of neonate ($p=0.001$) and the sources of information was gained from health talks ($p=0.001$), Majalah Wanita ($p=0.001$), Majalah PaMa ($p=0.001$) and Majalah Keluarga ($p=0.004$).

Conclusion:

Prevalence of knowledge level on healthcare of neonate among the pregnant mothers was only 52.7%. Effort to improve the knowledge level for pregnant mother on health care of their neonates should be initiated since early antenatal period. Dissemination of health care of neonate's information should have better coverage.

Key words:

knowledge on health care of neonate, antenatal mother and antenatal health education.